

South Carolina Department of Agriculture

Hugh Weathers, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South Carolina Horsemen's Council hosts SETC

COLUMBIA, SC - July 21, 2008 - The South Carolina Horsemen's Council will host the Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference (SETC) on July 31 to August 2, 2008 at the Sheraton Hotel in North Charleston, SC.

Anyone interested in using and preserving trails is invited to attend this premier trail education conference for equestrians. The conference is an outgrowth of the first major conference on recreational horse trails held in Clemson in 1998.

The theme this time around is "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow – providing for equestrians." The conference is designed to bring together those who are concerned about the future of the trail experience as seen from the back of a horse as well as the impact of trails and trail riding on educational, ecological, and the psychological (public and equestrian perception) of recreational horse trails.

The conference will begin with a choice of two daylong tours. The Lowcountry tour at Mullet Hall Equestrian Center on John's Island will be followed by lunch and a carriage ride in historic downtown Charleston. Participants on the Trails Tour in Francis Marion National Forest will learn how water issues were solved in this trail system. Or participants may opt to attend a four-hour GIS class for professionals, led by Joel Harrison, GIS Coordinator.

SETC conference speakers and presenters will include: Tom Seay, host of Best of America by Horseback on RFD-TV; Bonnie Davis of Trail Rider Magazine – "Horse Camping – Meeting the New Environmental Restrictions;" Rick Potts, National Parks Service; Joel Harrison – GIS Coordinator for Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests – "Federal GPS/GIS Regulations;" and Neva Scheve of EquiSpirit – "Trailer Safety."

To register or for more information about the Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference, contact Jim Edwards, 864-871-5784, jim.edwards1@yahoo.com. For more information about SC's equine industry, contact Mary Ellen Tobias, SCDA Equine Marketing Specialist, 803-734-4329, mtobias@scda.sc.gov.

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